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Where In The World: Student Searching Tips

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Learning to search the Internet effectively is will eliminate lots of frustration and reduce wasted time. Take a minute and look through these search tips, then do the practice before going onto the Information Superhighway.

**Select a search engine.** For this project, you will ONLY be using Google. To get to Google, open a browser (Internet Explorer, Safari or Firefox) and type in <http://www.google.com>.

**Learn to narrow your search**. That Internet is a BIGGGGG place with billions of pages. The trick to searching the web is to use the correct **keywords** and to narrow your search to exactly what you looking for, eliminating all the extra stuff you don’t want!

Here are some ways to narrow your search and find what you are looking for more quickly

* In the Google Search box, type in your key word(s), then a **plus (+)** sign before another narrowing key word.

EXAMPLE: looking for hurricanes that occurred in the United States in 2005?

TYPE: hurricane +U.S. +2005

* In the Google Search box, place **quotation marks ("")** around the words you are looking for. This will result in matches with that EXACT sequence of words.

EXAMPLE: looking for a list of Thomas Edison’s inventions?

TYPE: “Inventions of Thomas Edison” (only pages with *those exact words in that order* will be displayed)

**If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again.** If you are not finding what you are looking for, change your keyword or the order of your words in the search box.

**Spelling definitely counts!** Do your best with spelling correctly. If Google thinks you have misspelled a word, it will ask you “Did you mean” and then offer an alternative word. If that is what you meant to type, click on the “Did you mean” and it will correct your search for you!